



**(U) Letter to the Editor: Please Don't Utilize That Word!**

FROM: the editor  
Unknown  
Run Date: 11/18/2005

(U) The recent article [\(U\) Acronyms Anonymous](#) touched on the benefits of using short, simple words over longer ones. This reminded a few readers of a noteworthy NSA memo from many years ago. The memo was issued by NSA's Assistant Director for Production, Maj Gen John E. Morrison, USAF (pictured) on 28 December 1971, and read in its entirety:

Maj Gen Morrison

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Subject: Utilization

Please stop utilizing "utilize" and utilize "use."

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*(U) Thanks to the Center for Cryptologic History for providing a copy of this memo. See also a [bio of Maj Gen Morrison](#).*

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